DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 105 216 CE 003 507

TITLE The Challenge to Vocational Education in the Economic Crisis: Policy Statement.
INSTITUTION National Advisory Council on Vocational Education, Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 17 Jan 75
NOTE 3p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *Policy Formation; *Professional Associations; Unemployment; *Vocational Education; Vocational Retraining

ABSTRACT

Although rising unemployment is heaviest among unskilled and underskilled workers, it is important to realize that skilled workers now being laid off will never return to their present occupations. Growing shortages of skilled manpower in many occupational areas in addition to unemployment in many job skills are changing work patterns and basic industries. Vocational educators are being called on to provide training and retraining needed by young people and adults to adapt to changing conditions. The 10 recommendations offered by the council to vocational educators urge they: survey job needs and opportunities in communities for retraining program development; provide accelearted courses to retrain unemployed workers for available jobs; coordinate programs with other skill training facilities; emphasize new programs utilizing community resources to train workers for new occupations and development of curricula; phase out obsolete programs; revise institutional procedures, schedules, and curriculum for greater flexibility in retraining and outreach programs; utilize vocational funds for the disadvantaged; shift funds to vocational education and basic adult education; emphasize home economics education; inventory continuing job opportunities in agribusiness and ways to meet food needs. (Author/JB)

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
425 13TH STREET, NORTHWEST • SUITE 412 • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004 • TELEPHONE (202) 962-0781

JOHN W. THIELE
Acting Chairman

CALVIN DELLEFIELD
Executive Director

ED105216

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT
JANUARY 17, 1975

THE CHALLENGE TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In its desire to support the President's efforts to strengthen the nation's economy, the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education calls on vocational educators to marshal their talents and resources to help re-employ America's unemployed.

Continually rising unemployment is heaviest among unskilled and underskilled workers.

But it is important for the nation to realize also that many skilled workers now being laid off will never return to their present occupations. Conditions will not "normalize" in the sense of a return to the status quo. We as a nation must recognize that the present economic upheaval will seriously change work patterns and basic industries.

In a time of severe economic crisis, such as our nation is now experiencing, we cannot continue business as usual. The disruptions now experienced by industry, labor, and government are not temporary phenomena which will be corrected when the next quarterly economic forecast is issued.

The current problems are likely to cause basic changes in our way of life and our way of thinking. Already the effects of this change are beginning to be felt in every household in the country, and in our various institutions.

Future shock is here. From now on it will not be uncommon for workers to change job skills several times in a working lifetime. And our educational system bears a special responsibility to help us absorb some of the impact.

This is particularly true of vocational education, which has, or should have, the capability to provide the training and retraining needed by young people and adults to adapt to changing conditions.

While we suffer unemployment in many job skills, there are growing shortages of skilled manpower in many other occupational areas. This is particularly true in newly emerging industries.

CE003507

The National Advisory Council on Vocational Education urges vocational education institutions throughout the nation to face this challenge as the first order of priority.

This should be done by vocational educators:

1. With the help of United States Employment Service and other appropriate agencies, survey and assess the job needs and opportunities in their respective communities so that the unemployed can be trained or retrained both for present jobs and near-future labor needs.

2. Provide accelerated courses—or mini-courses—where necessary to retrain the unemployed for available jobs as quickly as possible; combining classroom instruction with supplemental on-the-job training where applicable.

3. Coordinate programs with other skill training facilities, such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), to prevent duplication.

4. Place greater emphasis on new programs, utilizing all the resources of the community, to train workers for emerging new occupations, and develop curricula for such programs.

5. Phase out obsolete programs which are not relevant to labor market demands.

6. Revise institutional procedures, schedules, and curriculum to permit greater flexibility, such as shorter courses, after hours and weekend use of facilities for retraining and basic adult education, and outreach programs.

7. Utilize to a maximum the fifteen percent mandatory set-asides of vocational funds for the disadvantaged, since the hardest hit by unemployment are the disadvantaged.

8. Shift as much discretionary funds as possible, at both the State and Federal levels, to the total attack on unemployment through vocational education and basic adult education, at least through 1975 or until unemployment begins to abate.

9. Strengthen Home Economics Education in the continuing effort against inflation.

10. Inventory continuing job opportunities in the nation's agri-business and new opportunities to meet the nation's food needs.